

b) creating a transmembrane pressure between a permeate side and a retentate side of the membranes, the retentate side of the membranes being in contact with the water in the tank, the permeate side being fluidly connected to a filtered permeate outlet, to generate a filtered permeate at the permeate outlet;

c) aerating the membranes to dislodge solids from the membranes;

d) backwashing the membranes;

e) draining the tank; and,

f) performing the steps above in repeated cycles

wherein the steps of backwashing the membranes and draining the tank may be performed either before the other or partially or substantially simultaneously and the step of backwashing the membranes in the repeated cycles periodically involves backwashing with a cleaning chemical having a selected concentration for a selected duration after performing step (b).

27. (Amended) The invention of claim 26 wherein the cycles of part (f) of claim 26 are repeated at least once a day and the step of backwashing the membranes in the repeated cycles involves backwashing with a cleaning chemical between once a day and once a cycle.